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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

20 May 1957

STAFF MEMORANDUM NO. 28-57

SUBJECT: Proposed Terms of Reference for a Special Estimate on Sino-Soviet Reactions to the Introduction of Nuclear Weapons by the US into Countries on the Periphery of the Bloc

THE PROBLEM

To estimate the manner in which the Sino-Soviet Bloc would probably react to a build-up of nuclear weapons in countries adjacent to or near its borders.

SCOPE NOTE

The purpose of this estimate is to determine the manner in which the Sino-Soviet Bloc would probably react to a build-up of nuclear weapons in countries adjacent to or near its borders. In particular, consideration should be given to possible retaliatory measures against individual host countries, to possible effects on Sino-Soviet policy toward the divided countries (Germany, Korea, Vietnam), and to possible effects on the Soviet approach to disarmament.

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒

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QUESTIONS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

1. Briefly what have been the Sino-Soviet Bloc reactions to the deployment of US nuclear weapons to countries bordering on the Bloc?

2. What will be the probable Sino-Soviet reaction to possible future deployments of such weapons? In this respect consideration should be given to such factors as:

- a. the area involved (e.g., NATO countries, particularly West Germany, the Baghdad Pact Countries, Thailand, South Vietnam, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea);
- b. the recipient of the weapons and control of the nuclear war heads (e.g., US forces in being in a particular country, new deployment of US forces accompanying deployment of the weapons, forces of third country ally in area, or indigenous forces);
- c. the general type of delivery system involved (e.g., a purely tactical system such as 280 mm. cannon or a long range guided missile system).

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